

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release



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SEN. SCOTT PRAISES FUNDING INCREASES FOR EDUCATION

*Teacher certification program, life skills training project, and
Detroit Public Schools to benefit*

LANSING - State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) today praised her legislative colleagues in helping her secure funding for several key educational programs for FY 2007. Recipients include: Wayne State University's Pathways to Teaching program; the Mercy Education Project; and the Detroit Public Schools.

As a conferee on the Department of Education conference committee, Sen. Scott was able to secure \$100,000 for the WSU Limited License to Instruct/Pathways to Teaching program. This program, which assists non-certified teachers in receiving certification, works to increase the number of certified teachers in high- need areas and increase the number of teachers from minority and under-represented groups.

Sen. Scott was also successful in securing \$100,000 for the Mercy Education Project, despite the funding being stripped on the Senate floor by Republican colleagues. The Mercy Education Project is aimed at women and girls from at-risk families, through after school tutoring, GED preparation and life skills training.

"I am simply delighted that these programs and initiatives are priorities for the new budget year," Sen. Scott said. "What could be more valuable to Michigan's future than certifying teachers in high-need areas; providing self-sufficiency programs for at-risk females; and increased funding for Michigan's largest school district? These are the kinds of decisions that can make a positive difference in our state."

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Under the agreement, the Detroit Public Schools will realize an increase of more than \$34 million, as a result of declining enrollment grants, middle school math program funding; and the \$210 per student Foundation allowance increase. Per pupil funding will increase to \$7,469.

Funding was also restored to the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC), a non-profit charged with establishing standards and guidelines for early childhood development activities that will be implemented throughout the state. Additional funding was also provided to Adult Education programs and the Michigan School Readiness Program, the state's pre-school program for four-year-olds.

The agreement is expected to be ratified by the full legislature on July 26th, 2006.

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Senator Martha G. Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.